

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 OMB-01 ACDA-05 /093 W

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R 091730Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3820

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0327

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AG, MO, SS, MA

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN CHARGE AND LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL?

1. MOROCCAN CHARGE MOULINE 9 FEB PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH FOLLOWING RUNDOWN AS HOW HE SEES SAHARA SITUATION FROM HERE.

2. MOROCCANS PUBLICLY INSISTING THAT SAHARA AFFAIR IS CLOSED AND CANNOT BE REOPENED; THE ONLY PURPOSE FOR MEDIATION IS TO FIND WAY FOR ALGERIANS TO WITHDRAW. ALGERIANS PUBLICLY INSISTING THAT ONLY WAY TO IMPLEMENT PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION IS BY FREE AND AUTHENTIC REFERENDUM; THEY HAVE REJECTED IDEA OF CAIRO MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS FOR NO VALID REASON (ALLEGING CAIRO TOO FAR AWAY). THEREFORE, HE SAID, THING WERE AT IMPASSE.

3. HE SAID, HOWEVER, ALGERIANS ARE LOOKING FOR WAY OUT. ALGERIANS HAD INFORMED MOROCCANS IN ADVANCE THAT THEY WOULD EVACUATE TIFARITI AS GESTURE OF "GOOD WILL" AND IN FACT DID SO. BOUMEDIENE'S TELEPHONE CALLS TO ARAB CHIEFS OF STATE AND HIS NOW CALLING ON OAU TO  
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INTERVENE TO MEDIATE SUGGEST GENUINE DESIRE ESCAPE IMPASSE.

4. HE STATED THAT BOTH ALGERIAN AND MOROCCAN POSITIONS WERE ABOVE ALL NEGOTIATING POSITIONS. HE SAID THAT MOROCCO, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS AWARE THAT ONCE IT BEGAN DISCUSSING ANYTHING ANYWHERE WITH ALGERIANS IT WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS SAHARA, EVEN THOUGH ITS FORMAL POSITION WAS THAT AFFAIR WAS CLOSED. HE STATED KEY TO NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE FOR ALGERIANS TO STOP BLATHERING ABOUT PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND TO GET ON TO WHAT EVERYONE KNEW WERE THEIR UNDERLYING CONCERNS: MAGHREB EQUILIBRIUM AND SAHARAN RESOURCES. ONCE ALGERIANS BEGAN TALKING ABOUT REAL ISSUES, HE SAID, MOROCCANS WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS THEM AND TRY TO REACH FAIR SETTLEMENT.

5. COMMENT: MOULINE'S MAP OUT OF CURRENT IMPASSE SOUNDS LOGICAL, BUT WE DO NOT YET SEE ANY CONCRETE EVIDENCE HERE TO SUPPORT IT.

6. RABAT'S REPORTING AND HARD LINE ADOPTED BY OTHER MOROCCAN DIPLOMATS HERE DO NOT SUGGEST DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY MOULINE IMPLIES THERE EXISTS IN MOROCCAN POSITON.

7. NOR DO WE YET SEE ANY HARD EVIDENCE HERE THAT ALGERIANS PREPARED ABANDON THESIS OF NEED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SELF-DETERMINATION BY REFERENDUM. FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL IN OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT DAILY 7 FEB ON RYDBECK MISSION REPEATS STANDARD ISISTENCE THAT "ANY MEDIATION MUST HAVE AS ITS GOAL TO GUARANTEE REFERENDUM FREE FROM ALL EXTERIOR PRESSURE". PRESS TREATMENT OF SAHARA EVENTS ALSO DEPRESSINGLY FAMILIAR: MOROCCAN AIRPLANES BOMBARDING AND NAPALMING REFUGEE CAMPS, ARRIVAL OF YET ANOTHER MEDIATOR (SEC GEN OAU ETEKI), CRITICISM OF FRENCH FOR SILENCE ON ANTI-FRENCH DEMONSTRATIONS IN NOUAKCHOTT AND FOR THEIR COMORES POLICY, AND YET ANOTHER MEETING OF COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO EXAMINE SITUATION.PARKER

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